NEWSLETTER



January, 2017

P.O. Box 361065 Strongsville, OH 44136 440-638-4304

Annual Meeting Thursday, January 19th

Join us at the clubhouse for the 2017 Annual meeting on **THURSDAY**, **JANUARY 19**, at 8:00 p.m. Trustee election ballots may be turned in and dues payments will be accepted. Ward 2 Strongsville City Councilman Matt Schonhut plans to attend. Association trustees will report on 2016 activities and projects and present other items of business. There will also be presentations regarding results of the online resident survey, the proposed Vision 2020 plan and time is set aside for resident questions.

A "**WELCOME TO HIGH POINT**" program will be held for <u>new residents</u> before the annual meeting on Thursday, January 19. This informational meeting <u>begins at 7:30 p.m.</u> at the clubhouse. Get your questions about High Point answered and meet new neighbors. Reservations are not needed.

30th Annual Easter Egg Scramble

Sunday, April 9th at 2:00 p.m.

Come celebrate spring at our **30th** Annual Easter Egg Scramble. **Mark your calendars now**, *because there will not be another newsletter before this event*. Thousands of brightly colored eggs will be scattered for children to gather. All age groups will be run consecutively (separate groups take only a few minutes each) on **Sunday**, **April 9**, beginning at 2:00 p.m. Don't be late and bring a bag or bucket to collect eggs. Yes, it is Palm Sunday.

Kids will have an **eggciting** time and lots of fun. Moms, dads or grandparents must attend with participating children. Remember to wear outdoor clothes. There will be three age groups:

Walking to 3 years old

4 to 6 years old

7 to 10 years old

Come to the Recreation area tennis courts (please park at clubhouse and walk in). In case of very bad weather, it will be held on Saturday, April 15 at 2:00 p.m. (Homeowner Hotline – 440-638-4304 – will have message ONLY if it is bad weather.) Our event usually goes very quickly. Moms and dads can help little ones collect eggs, but we ask parents to use good judgment in having a FUN event for all kids, NOT a contest to see who can get the most eggs.

See you on Sunday, April 9th!

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Online Survey for Residents





Remember the last time High Point residents were asked how they felt about living in High Point and Strongsville? It has been a long time. In fact, it was a PAPER survey! We are going electronic in 2017. Type the link below in your browser on your computer to take this survey. If you don't have a computer, call our Homeowner Hotline and we will get you a paper copy. Survey responses will be posted on our website after January 19 under the tab "Resident Survey 2017." Please participate.

https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/6JY5RT7

Vision 2020 Proposed by Trustees

For many years association trustees have contemplated the need to make changes to the association governing By-Laws. We believe the time has come to update the original governance documents prepared by Parkview Homes in 1976.

These changes are complicated and will require the attention of all property owners in High Point. A special mailing is being sent with the necessary information to understand what is being proposed. You should have received your 2017 Dues Invoice already. This Newsletter is coming out the first week in January and the special Vision 2020 mailing will be on its way in just a few days.

Our Covenants & Restrictions are deed-restricted, which means each property owner must accept them at the point of purchase. Title and escrow companies that handle the transfer of ownership are responsible for ensuring that new owners are aware of and agree to the deed restrictions as part of the ownership transfer. These set up the association as a governing body with the ability to levy annual dues and special assessments to pay for the maintenance, repair and replacement of the association amenities. Our association By-Laws contain the details of day-to-day operations and the administration of the association by the board of trustees. Both work together.

To change the association Covenants & Restrictions, it requires approval from 90% of the owners in High Point. We do not see a need to make any changes to the Covenants & Restrictions, but believe three changes to the By-Laws are needed. It takes a majority of the owners (320 of the 640 properties) to change the By-Laws. This is a nearly impossible task. Our experience in 1994 with the High Point 2000 plan for improvements proved how difficult this is. It took six months to obtain a majority vote for improvements funded without a dues increase. These operational changes to the By-Laws are very important to manage the daily operations of the association.

Briefly, here are the three changes and their related By-Laws section reference. You can find the By-Laws on our website under the Covenants & Restrictions tab.

- Article V General Powers of the Association Section 1 (c) this is about spending authority for the trustees
- Article VII Officers Section 6 The Treasurer this changes from an audit to financial review
- Article VIII Meetings of Members Section 4 Quorum, Adjournment this modifies the trustee election

Please look for a special Vision 2020 mailing in your mailbox soon. Information can also be found on our website, a tab "Vision 2020." A ballot is required for owners to complete for the three changes to the By-Laws. You will find a ballot included with the special mailing and it is also on our website. If you have questions, you can contact the Homeowner Hotline, send an email to trustees, call any trustee or attend the Annual Meeting at the clubhouse on Thursday, January 19 at 8:00 pm.

Thank you in advance for your consideration.

10 Year Budget Updated

High Point association trustees operate using a 10-year rolling budget projection that appears in the January Newsletter each year. This allows the trustees and residents to measure how their dues are being spent against long-range projections for required revenue and necessary expenditures. This lines up with the Reserve Study that was done in 2015. Recreational facilities owned by residents have an expected life cycle and the trustees monitor conditions and make adjustments to the budget as needed. While the trustees don't have a crystal ball, planning and preparation for major repairs and replacements affords the best opportunity to maintain our amenities. Our budget contains both service and material costs that can vary and increase from time to time.

Questions about the 10-year projections (this budget is updated every year based on current year experience) can be directed to the trustees via the Homeowner Hotline or at the Annual Meeting.

You will find the latest 10 Year Rolling Budget Forecast in this Newsletter









Homeowner Reminders

Neighborhood Security – During the winter season, visitors come into our development. Some are invited and some are not. Watch out for activity that does not seem right and call police. If neighbors are on vacation and you see lights on in their house, it is usually a bad sign. If you see or hear people roaming the area late at night, a call to the police is also warranted. Vandalism, damage and theft all usually take place a night, under the cover of darkness. Police would rather respond to false alarms than not be called and complete crime reports later on. Make sure your front post light is working.

Winter Notes - Residents are responsible to clear sidewalks within 24 hours of a snow. Do not clear driveway aprons by pushing snow into the street, as this is a safety hazard. Snowmobiles, all-terrain vehicles or motor bikes are not permitted in the common areas or on the streets at any time.

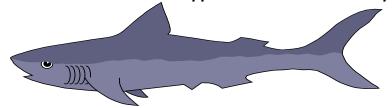
HIGH POINT SWIM TEAM

There will be a mandatory PARENT information/registration meeting **Thursday**, **April 27**, **at 7:00 pm at the High Point Clubhouse**. You can attend to register or get information. Registration forms will be available at the meeting. **Required** committee assignments are made at <u>this meeting</u>. Parents who make the commitment that night receive their **first** choice of duties. **Swimmer registrations are not accepted without a commitment by parents to serve on a committee or other assignment**. Please remember swim meets cannot operate without the necessary support of parent volunteers. (Home meets require at least 40 parents and away meets require at least 28 volunteers.)

Please bring a current e-mail address as important information is sent via the internet (i.e. practice times, schedule changes, cancellation, etc.). If you don't have e-mail, we will still get information to parents via swim team mailboxes or signs posted at the High Point clubhouse. If you have questions about the team please direct *inquiries via email to:* **High_Point_sharks@yahoo.com**

Many thanks to residents Janie DeVito and Jeff Gadd for their leadership of the swim team and the time they volunteer for the team. We appreciate their efforts to support our kids!

Good Luck Sharks in 2017!!!!!



Good Luck Sharks in 2017!!!!!

Association Trustees

 David Allen
 17840 Heritage Trail
 440-572-1026

 David Knowles
 18435 Yorktown Oval
 216-870-7951

 Jack Schneider
 18275 North Salem Row
 440-238-8679

 Ken Evans
 18399 Yorktown Oval
 440-572-3292

 Bob Campobenedetto
 18156 Rustic Hollow
 440-238-3013

Please remember family members can take messages for the trustees, but are unable to answer questions about concerns or issues within the association. Thank you for your cooperation.

Retention Lake Safety

High Point residents are reminded that the two retention lakes in the development are NOT intended for fishing, swimming, boating or other recreational activity. These bodies of water are designed for the purpose of detaining runoff water from the development and surrounding areas. It is especially important to understand that these lakes do not easily freeze and should NEVER be used for ice skating. Parents should not allow children in the area because the banks of the lakes are steep and the water can have debris and contaminants. Lifesaving equipment is not provided at either lake.

Santa and Guests Fill the Clubhouse

A huge record-setting crowd filled the clubhouse to capacity for the 2016 Kid's Christmas Party and were thrilled with the magic of David Anthony, a great magician (www.danthonymagic.com). Santa Claus was on hand to greet over 250 guests (kids, parents and grandparents). Everyone received creative balloon figures and had the opportunity to get a photo with Santa. Each youngster received a special Malley's chocolate treat. (This event is for residents and grandkids, not cousins, relatives or friends. We appreciate that other relatives might like to attend, but we need to limit the party to residents – not friends - and grandkids.) A great time was had by all. Thanks to all that helped.

Tennis Court Update

We are working with VersaCourt, the manufacturer of the tiles used in our tennis courts, on warranty coverage of the product, based on the color deterioration of the maroon tiles. We expect to have resolution of our warranty claim in 2017 and anticipate work will be done to change out the faded tiles sometime this year. While the product may be covered, there will be labor and other costs involved.

Dues payable in January

2017 Association Dues Notices were sent out via first class mail to each High Point homeowner just before the end of the year. You should have received your dues notice already. If you did not get your invoice or misplaced it, you can download an invoice form from our website. Click on FORMS tab. Homeowners of record (owners listed in Cuyahoga County records) are responsible to pay dues.

Our By-Laws require dues be paid January 1 each year. Payments after January 31 (determined by postmark date) are subject to a late fee of \$25 per calendar month, until paid. If a homeowner has financial or special difficulties paying their dues, call trustees Bob Campobenedetto at 440-238-3013 or Ken Evans at 440-572-3292. If your house is for sale, you owe dues now and will receive a prorated refund from the title company based on the transfer date, when you sell later. **Thank you to homeowners who pay their dues on time each year. It is a big help to the trustees.**

Common Areas Not Private Property

Our greenbelt areas running throughout the development (some wooded and some grass) are intended for the enjoyment of all. Individual homeowners may not extend their yards or allow their children to build forts, bike trails, fire pits or clear trees in common areas. There are many reasons the Association cannot allow this activity. While the trustees do not patrol these areas, if residents observe abuse, they can call the Homeowner Hotline and report such to the trustees for action.

Personal Steading Safety

Sledding is not allowed on common property. As hills in the common area are too small for this activity and are close to homes, it is dangerous and can easily cause property damage. Certain areas were identified incorrectly by the developer as winter sports areas. Please observe this restriction.

Our association is fortunate that Southwest General Health Center has agreed to allow sledding on the mounds which buffer our development. Sledding is allowed on the slope facing the health center (not on the High Point side where trees were planted on the slope and exist in back yards). This is a large area which can accommodate a large number of people. As with any activity of this type, parents should be present with participants under 12. Please note those going to this area should NOT use yards to cut through to the mound. Ample parking is available to drive and park behind the Health Center. We appreciate this generous arrangement by SWGHC officials.

NEXT NEWSLETTER IN MID-APRIL

Homeowner Hotline 440-638-4304

2016 Financial Report

High Point Budget vs Actual - 2016

1/1/2016 through 12/31/2016

1/1/2016 through 12/31/2016				
Category Description	Actual	Budget	Difference	Special Notes
INCOME				
Resident Dues	\$231,133	\$229,680	1,453	
Rentals, interest, other income	\$12,125	\$15,000	-2,875	
TOTAL INCOME	\$243,258	\$244,680	-1,422	Fewer rentals in 2016
EXPENSES				
Association Improvements	\$6,718	\$3,000	-3,718	See Note 1
Recreation Area Repair	\$119	\$3,000	2,881	
Clubhouse Operations	\$9,430	\$11,500	2,070	
Post Office/Print/Supplies	\$7,628	\$5,500	-2,128	See Note 2
Landscape Mgt Service	\$50,688	\$50,000	-688	
Landscape Special Projects	\$34,313	\$15,000	-19,313	See Note 3
Pool Management Services	\$52,500	\$55,000	2,500	
Pool Repair & Equipment	\$15,100	\$3,000	-12,100	See Note 4
Lifeguards for Rentals	\$206	\$300	94	Always paid from rental fees
Utilities (ele,gas,w/s,phone)	\$26,419	\$25,500	-919	
Security Services	\$2,412	\$500	-1,912	See Note 5
Accounting Services	\$1,870	\$1,850	-20	
Clubhouse Cleaning Services	\$4,433	\$5,100	667	
Insurance Services	\$13,864	\$14,000	136	
Legal & Financial Services	\$388	\$500	112	
Taxes (property, payroll, etc)	\$2,593	\$2,500	-93	
Social Events	\$4,576	\$5,500	924	
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$233,257	\$201,750	-31,507	
Capital Improvement Projects	\$0	\$9,000	9,000	
GRAND TOTAL EXPENSES	\$233,257	\$210,750	-22,507	See notes for explanations
Income vs Expenses (Annual Net)	\$10,001	\$33,930	-23,929	See notes for explanations

NOTES TO 2016 FINANCIAL REPORT

Note 1: New swim team starting blocks were purchased and installed. Swim team partially paid for this project. **Note 2:** Pool passes were printed for 2016-2020. **Note 3:** In 2016 we saw record costs for tree removal. Due to disease and old age, a larger number of trees had to be cut down in our common areas than was budgeted. When possible, trees are dropped in the greenbelt and cut into sections. In unusual circumstances, trees area felled and removed, which is expensive. We do bid out tree work to a small number of tree service firms, in our attempt to keep costs down while keeping our naturally wooded areas safe. **Note 4:** Work was required to repair major leaks in the pool in 2016, as described in this newsletter. **Note 5:** Our clubhouse security system was replaced using a new vendor that will save money with updated equipment. In 2016 we had projected capital project work on the pool sand filer and basketball courts, but neither project was needed at this time.

In 2016 bidding was done for the security system, landscape contract and pool management contract. Trustees estimate the budget each year, based on continuing contract costs and estimated expenses, to ensure residents get the maximum return for their money. Also consult the 10-Year Budget Projection spreadsheet in this newsletter for more information about expenses and a comparison to past years. Trustees will report on association finances and respond to questions at the Annual Meeting on January 19 at 8:00 pm at the clubhouse.

2017 Clubhouse Rentals Booking Now

As a homeowner, you may rent our clubhouse for private parties. Due to heavy rental activity, it is suggested that you plan your dates well in advance. You can check available dates on our Rental Calendar. That being said, don't hesitate to call to check dates when situations arise that require use of the space on short notice. We average 110 rentals a year and it is a great benefit to homeowners. Call the High Point Homeowner Hotline, 440-638-4304, and leave a message. It helps to have several dates in mind when calling. Your call about a rental will be returned within a few days.

Non-Summer Rentals

All rentals for non-summer months (when the pool is closed from Labor Day to Memorial Day each year) are \$125 per day. Our clubhouse is available for rent weekends, weekdays and weeknights for events. We suggest booking as far in advance as possible, especially for Holiday parties.

Summer Rentals

<u>POOL RENTALS</u> may begin as early as 5:00 p.m. for weekday, Friday, Saturday or Sunday evenings, but must share the pool with residents during homeowner hours. Parties ending by 10:00 p.m. are charged \$125 for the rental, which includes the cost of lifeguards, and share the pool with residents the entire time of the rental. Parties may go beyond 10:00 p.m. to midnight, with up to two hours of private pool time, but the rental cost is then \$250. All rentals must end when the contracted pool use ends (10:00 p.m. or 12:00 a.m.) and cleanup must be done immediately thereafter.

(Note: Summer rentals using the pool may not begin until after 5:00 p.m. due to the heavy bather load between the hours of noon and 5:00 p.m. Allowing private rentals would compromise safety for swimmers and that is the highest priority for association trustees and lifeguards.)

NON-POOL RENTAL fee is \$125 (anniversaries, baby or wedding showers, retirements, etc.) and may begin at any time during the day. Residents who rent as a Non-pool rental may not use the pool for their guests, even after 5:00 p.m. Any use of the pool for a Non-Pool Rental violates the rental contract and can result in forfeiture of the security deposit, as it is a safety issue for the association.

Call the Homeowner Hotline (440-638-4304) for information and to make reservations.

A refundable security deposit of \$500 (two checks for \$100 and \$400 payable to High Point) is required and returned if the clubhouse is cleaned and returned as received and no damage is done to the clubhouse. Rental dates are confirmed only when separate checks (rental fee and security deposit) are received, a rental contract has been signed by the homeowner, and a "Release From Liability and Agreement to Indemnify" form has been executed. **Clubhouse capacity is 120 people.**

Ballot for Association Trustee

Three Board of Trustees positions are available for a two-year term that runs from January 2017 to December 2019. There are five total trustees, with Bob Campobenedetto and Ken Evans serving a two-year term that began in January 2016. Send ballots to the association post office box or deliver to the Association Annual Meeting on Thursday, January 19 at 8:00 pm. ______ Send to: High Point Trustee Ballot, P.O. Box 361065, Strongsville, Ohio 44136 Homeowners should vote for three candidates and mail the ballot to the address above no later than January 16 or bring it to the Annual Meeting on January 19. All ballots require the homeowner name and address for validation. Vote for no more than three trustees. A simple majority of votes from the ballots cast will determine the new trustees. (★ indicates current trustee) **■ ★** David Allen, 17840 Heritage Trail Vote for 3 Vote for 3 **■ *** David Knowles, 18435 Yorktown Oval ■ * Tack Schneider, 18275 North Salem Row Homeowner casting ballot (print) ______ (name required)

Thank you in advance to residents who support the association and cast ballots.

Date

Homeowner address ___

High Point Homeowners Association P.O. Box 361065 - Strongsville, Ohio 44136



FIRST CLASS



Annual Association Meeting Thursday, January 19

SUNDAY, APRIL 9th at 2:00 p.m. – EGGCITING!!!!

HIGH POINT NEWSLETTER

Landscape Contract Bid Results

This past fall the trustees spent many hours to bid out our landscape contract. Erie Landscape was the successful contractor chosen for the next 3 years. We appreciate their past hard work and expertise that includes all lawn maintenance, tree and shrub pruning, cleaning creeks and drainage headwalls. There were a total of 6 bids received and reviewed. We are confident of our selection to ensure the common areas are taken care of and well maintained. We appreciate residents reporting landscape problems or issues to the Homeowner Hotline. Call 440-638-4304 to report concerns.

Planning to Add or Renovate?

High Point residents are governed by Covenants and Restrictions. If you plan to remodel the exterior or add to your home this summer, it is necessary to contact the association. An Architectural Review form must be completed and submitted with plans or drawings to the trustees for approval. City departments will not approve plans until they receive approval from the association. Forms are in this newsletter or available on our website or by calling the Homeowner Hotline at 440-638-4304.

WEBSITE HAS LATEST INFORMATION

Our website is **www.hpohio.com** and features many categories of information. A helpful tab is available titled "GOVERNANCE and ADMINISTRATION". On this tab you will find Annual Meeting minutes, trustee meeting agendas and Association Financial Reports. Happy reading!

www.hpohio.com

See info inside – Online 2017 Homeowner Survey

Pool Leak Found and Repairs Completed

You may have observed that the swimming pool did not get covered up immediately after Labor Day. At the end of the season, the pool was losing several inches of water every day, and that was not a good thing. Over the course of several months, we had pool experts track down the problems. Some additional work will be done in the spring, when the weather breaks, to complete the repairs. Our "new" pool was built in 1996-97. At the time of the pool construction, we determined the original underground surge tank (a large concrete box that holds many gallons of water to balance the pump system) was in good shape. Over the course of time, the concrete developed small cracks and a significant hole. Repairs were made to the surge tank and smaller leaks in the skimmers and drains, as well as some work on the DiamondBrite floor. While none of this was anticipated and the costs were outside of budgeted dollars, the renovations will extend the life of the pool for several years.

777 Step Right Up and Volunteer WWW

Year after year the trustees try to provide and support events in the Association. We use the Swim Team to facilitate our Memorial Day Pool Opening and have a group under the direction of PJ Warner that organizes the Fourth of July Neighborhood Parade. Trustees have been directly responsible for the Kid's Christmas Party and Easter Egg Scramble, our two largest and best attended events.

Residents who might like to step forward to volunteer to lead any current association events are encouraged to contact any of the trustees. That goes for organizing and planning new events for adults, kids or families. While there are many activities in the larger community and throughout Cleveland, we are always willing to support and fund new suggestions and ideas from members.

Clubhouse Conference Room Available

Residents should know that a conference room is available for local group meetings. If a High Point resident has a committee or small group that needs to meet during the day or in the evening, there is no charge to use this room that can hold as many as 20 people for small group meetings. Food is not permitted to be served in the conference room, as the kitchen is not available. Call the Homeowner Hotline for reservations. **440-638-4304** (Use requests should be made at least several weeks in advance. Resident must be present with group.) Availability is first-come, first-serve.

□ □ □ □ □ Speeders Beware □ □ □ □

Association trustees have requested the Strongsville Police pay special attention to address speeding problems in our development. Expect targeted enforcement. Please slow down in our neighborhood.

Give Kids a Brake

Drivers in High Point need to be aware and careful. Winter snow mounds and road conditions make driving (especially at night) hazardous for kids and pedestrians. Please slow down and take your time as you drive through High Point. Keep your speed within the posted limits. Especially in the morning as kids wait for school buses, watch out. Please drive carefully and give our kids a brake.

ORDER 2017 POOL PASSES NOW

Please order summer pool passes when you pay your annual dues. There will NOT be distribution dates this summer. You must order passes now, even if you are not sure you will use the pool this summer, so you have them when you want them. Almost all residents last year requested pool passes in advance and it worked very well. Passes will be mailed to homeowners by May 1 (we will provide the envelope and stamp). Residents that do not order passes before May 1, 2016 will pay a \$10.00 administrative fee (which trustees donate to the High Point Shark Swim Team) to get passes. If your home is for sale, your new buyer will be exempted from this fee. Existing residents must pay. A Pool Pass Registration form was mailed with your dues invoice. You can download a 2017 pool pass registration form from our website. Click on FORMS tab. Questions? Call Hotline at 440-638-4304.

* * Architectural Review Reminder * *

Architectural Control for the High Point Homeowners Association is defined in Article VI, Section 2 (Amended June, 1986) of the High Point Homeowners Association Covenants and Restrictions, titled Architectural Control. "No building, fence wall, or other structure shall be commenced, erected or maintained upon the Properties except by the Developer, or its authorized builder, building company, or other person, firm or entity. No exterior addition to or change or alteration to the Properties shall be made until the plans and specification showing the nature, kind, shape, heights, materials and location of the same have been submitted to and approved in writing as to harmony or external design and relocation in relation to surrounding structures and topography by the Board of Trustees of the Association, or by an architectural committee composed of three or more representatives appointed by the Board (until December 31, 1999, the architectural committee shall consist of three (3) members, two (2) of whom shall be appointed by the Developer and the other being appointed by all Owners other than Developer). In the event said Board or its designated committee fails to approve or disapprove such design and location within thirty (30) days after said plans and specifications have been submitted to it, or in any event, if no suit to enjoin the addition, alteration or change has been commenced prior to the completion thereof, approval will not be required and this Article will be deemed to have been fully complied with. This does not include interior renovations of your residence.

These protective covenants maintain amenities and protect property values within the association. Keeping this in mind, homeowners are required to follow these steps when performing repairs, making renovations or adding to their homes. (This includes additions, alterations, decks, patios or any other work that requires a building permit from the City of Strongsville Building Department.)

Step 1 – Complete this application and deliver to High Point trustees. Copies of plans, drawings, sketches or blue prints must be submitted with this application form. (These will be returned to you.) A response from the trustees will be returned to the homeowner within a few days.

Step 2 – File for a Building Permit with the City of Strongsville and inform the City that you have already made application with the High Point Homeowner Association.

Step 3 – Association will return your plans indicating action of approval or rejection. Association will respond with same information when contacted by the City of Strongsville.

Application for Review of Construction, Addition, Renovation Plans Send to: High Point Homeowner Assoc., P.O. Box 361065, Strongsville, Ohio 44136

Resident Name (please print) Property Address			Date		
			Sublot #		
Home Phone ()	Day Phone ()_		
Description of work	to be performed:				
	olors:				
Include plans, dra	awings, sketches or blue p	orints with details and	l specif	ications of pr	roposed work.
		ner signature			
DO NOT WRITE BELOV	W THIS LINE				
Date Received	Decision Date	ACTION: Appro	ve[]	Reject []	Qualify []
Trustoos					by